

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 16, 1974

(SALT TWO-472)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON

AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF OCTOBER 16, 1974.

QUOTE

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON

OCTOBER 16, 1974

MR. MINISTER:

I

AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES HAS ADDRESSED ITSELF ON MORE
THAN ONE OCCASION DURING THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS TO THE CONCEPT

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OF MUTUAL REDUCTIONS IN STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. IN THIS CONNEC-

TION, I NOTED THAT IN THE STATEMENT OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION ON OCTOBER 11 IS WAS SAID: "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT EVERYTHING IN THIS STATEMENT AS WELL AS EARLIER, THE SOVIET SIDE PROCEEDS FROM THE PREMISE THAT PROVISIONS FOR SOME REDUCTION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS OF STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL SECURITY AND INADMISSIBILITY OF UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE."

II

IN EXAMINING THE CONCEPT OF MUTUAL REDUCTIONS, THE UNITED STATES HAS, AMONG OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, DRAWN TWO CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THE DESIRABILITY OF AGREEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. FIRST, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT MUTUAL REDUCTIONS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL IN AND OF THEMSELVES. SECOND, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE BENEFITS OF REDUCTIONS WOULD BE SHARED BY BOTH SIDES, TO THE DISADVANTAGES OF NEITHER.

WE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE EFFORT TO LIMIT STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS MUTUAL REDUCTIONS WOULD HELP TO SLOW THE MOMENTUM OF THE ARMS COMPETITION. SUCH REDUCTIONS WOULD SERVE FURTHER TO REDUCE UNCERTAINTIES WHICH EACH SIDE MAY HAVE WITH RESPECT TO THE FUTURE LEVELS OF THE FORCES OF THE OTHER SIDE. ACCORDINGLY, MUTUAL REDUCTIONS CAN ENHANCE THE STABILITY OF THE STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SUCH BENEFITS STAND ON THEIR OWN AS WORTHWHILE GOALS, AND ALSO THAT THESE BENEFITS WOULD APPLY TO BOTH SIDES. IT ALSO STANDS TO REASON THAT FORCES AT LOWER LEVELS WOULD BE LESS COSTLY TO DEPLOY AND MAINTAIN THAN FORCES AT HIGHER LEVELS.

I HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGES WHICH COULD ACCRUE FROM AN EQUITABLE AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL REDUCTIONS. NOT ONLY WOULD A NEW SALT AGREEMENT HAVE A POTENTIALLY GREATER IMPACT BY THE INCLUSION OF MUTUAL REDUCTIONS, BUT THE OBLIGATIONS OF BOTH COUNTRIES UNDER ARTICLE VI OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY WOULD BE MORE DEMONSTRABLY ADDRESSED. I AM CERTAIN WE CAN BOTH AGREE THAT ENHANCING THE PROSPECTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY STANDS AS A DESIRABLE GOAL WHICH WOULD BENEFIT BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES.

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IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT STRATEGIC FORCES ON BOTH SIDES ARE PLANNED TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT MANY YEARS IN ADVANCE OF THEIR DEPLOYMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT MUTUAL REDUCTIONS SHOULD COMMENCE AT AN EARLY DATE SO THAT THEY CAN HAVE MAXIMUM EFFECT DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT. AS WE HAVE INDICATED, WE BELIEVE THAT MUTUAL REDUCTIONS WITHIN SUCH A TIME FRAME WOULD SERVE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES.

III

LET ME STATE AGAIN WHAT THE UNITED STATES HAS IN MIND IN TERMS OF SCOPE WHEN WE SPEAK OF MUTUAL REDUCTIONS. WE DO NOT SEEK REDUCTIONS SO SMALL THAT THEIR ONLY IMPORTANCE MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AS SYMBOLIC. NOR ARE WE THINKING OF REDUCTIONS SO GREAT AS TO AFFECT ADVERSELY THE DETERRENT POSTURE OF EITHER SIDE. RATHER, WE ARE THINKING OF MUTUAL REDUCTIONS THAT ARE REALISTIC AND WOULD HAVE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT OF THE STRATEGIC ARMS COMPETITION.

THE PREFERRED APPROACH OF THE UNITED STATES IS TO HAVE MUTUAL, PHASED REDUCTIONS TO A COMMON LOWER LEVEL -- THAT IS AN EQUAL LEVEL. PHASING OF MUTUAL REDUCTIONS WOULD ENHANCE CONFIDENCE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REDUCTION PROVISIONS OF AN AGREEMENT, AND WOULD HELP TO ASSURE THE STABILITY OF THE STRATEGIC BALANCE DURING THE PERIOD OF THE AGREEMENT.

IV

ALTHOUGH BOTH OF OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF REDUCTIONS, OUR TWO DELEGATIONS HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT SUFFICIENTLY TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A SPECIFIC APPROACH. I HAVE SET FORTH OUR CONCEPTS FOR CONSIDERATION. I INTERPRET YOUR STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 11, MR. MINISTER, AS BEING CONSISTENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH THESE CONCEPTS. I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING THE FURTHER REFLECTIONS OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBJECT OF MUTUAL REDUCTIONS.

IN PARTICULAR I WELCOME CLARIFICATION BY THE SOVIET SIDE REGARDING ITS VIEWS ON THE NECESSITY OF REDUCTIONS BEING CARRIED OUT BY BOTH SIDES. I LOOK FORWARD TO ELABORATION BY THE SOVIET SIDE OF ITS REACTION TO THE CONCEPT I HAVE SET FORTH OF REACHING A COMMON LOWER LEVEL IN THE AGGREGATE OF ICBM LAUNCHERS, SLBM

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LAUNCHERS, AND HEAVY BOMBERS BY MEANS OF PHASED MUTUAL REDUCTIONS. ADDITIONALLY, I HOPE THE SOVIET SIDE WILL PRESENT ITS VIEWS ON HOW IT ENVISAGES THAT REDUCTIONS IN THESE SYSTEMS WOULD BE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE PERIOD OF AN AGREEMENT LASTING UNTIL 1985. FINALLY, HAVING IN MIND WHAT THE UNITED STATES SIDE HAS SAID ABOUT THE EXTENT OF REDUCTIONS THAT IT IS CONTEMPLATING, I TRUST THE SOVIET SIDE CAN BE AS FORTHCOMING IN EXPRESSING ITS VIEWS ON THE SIZE OF REDUCTIONS IT WOULD ENVISAGE.

WE BELIEVE THAT A FURTHER DIALOGUE ON THIS SUBJECT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A COMMON APPROACH TOWARD A NEW AGREEMENT.

UNQUOTE

JOHNSON

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